

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING
March 14, 2022

Subject to Commission Approval

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6:01 PM in the Parks and Recreation office, Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, East Windsor, CT

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian, Simpkins and Lansner; Board of Selectman Muska; Director Maltese, A. Irene Mosher from the Park Office.

ABSENT: Commissioner Taylor

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as three (3) Commissioners were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public participation statement given by Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT was read into the record at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on March 14, 2022. The complete statement is found in the addendums.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the Minutes from the January 24th meeting was postponed until the next meeting, due to the fact that enough Commissioners who were in attendance at that meeting were not at the March 14th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Master Plan

Director Maltese stated that there have been 2 successful outreach meetings.

The BETA staff are pricing out the items that were marked as priorities. i.e., Walking trails, playgrounds, signage, receptacles, lighting structures and multi-use courts. A third and final outreach once pricing is done.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget 2022-2023

The Parks and Rec proposed budget was accepted by The Board of Selectmen and will be presented to the Board of Finance on March 24th at 7 PM. If there are any changes, it may be necessary to have a special meeting of the Commission.

b. Financial Accounts Review

The department is starting to plan for some different program needs that are coming up. She stated that she is in talks with Youth soccer and Little league. Even though Little League joined with Ellington, they will be using Osborne field and E. Windsor Park.

c. Park Director's report

Director Maltese welcomed Ruthanne Lansner to the Parks and Rec Commission. She comes with volunteer experience and is a staple at town events.

Director Maltese addressed the issue raised during public participation at the commission meeting held January 24, 2022.

- The major cause of the swim area being closed for 2 weeks was due the very large amount of rain which caused some high bacterial levels. The North Central Health district monitors the condition of the water and did testing twice per week. The also came out additional times to assure that the water would be safe, especially on the weekends.
- The State Bond Commission has approved a \$560,000 grant through the Urban Act Grant Fund. This funding will be used replace the outlet system at the Park which will enable better circulation and control of the water.
- The withdrawal request of Wetlands application was done by the Director of Public Works because the bond awards had not yet been given. He will be seeking a new Wetlands Application now that the bond has been approved.
- It was stated that the revenue totals were incorrect. Director Maltese explained that all East Windsor Park income goes into the Town's general fund. All deposits are made to the finance office.

The Director stated that planning is underway for spring and summer events. Commissioners each received a copy of the March program calendar. The Dance program is back in full swing and will have its recital on May 21st. The Department will be sponsoring a "Waffle Day" at the Senior Center on March 25th. Afterschool programs and Yoga have returned to in person. The department is working with Little League and Youth Soccer. With the plan to book some camp programs with Soccer for the summer

Also included in the Commissioners packet was a flier indicating the Pavilion rates and gate fees for the summer. The Democratic Party will be holding a "Bacon Festival" on May 14th.

The Commissioners also received update fliers showing the amenities at each of the Parks. These are located on the web site, Facebook and the welcome packet given to new residents from the First Selectman's office.

The Director stated that the Department is in the process of hiring for the summer. The biggest need is a camp director and assistant camp director. If we are unable to find a camp director, the focus may have to change to specialty camps such as Soccer, Food explorers etc. The Director stated that normally teachers who are not working for the summer are hired for this position. Information for these positions have been sent to the Board of Education and community colleges. Applications for other positions have been received.

Commissioner Szymanski asked if The Recreation Lead could oversee the camp. The Director stated that she is already spread thin and has full responsibility for the waterfront and we anticipate swim lessons returning which generates income for the Town. The Director also pointed out that the person running the camp must be there full time.

Commissioner Szymanski also stated that he understands not being able to open in July. He had 22 inches of water in his rain gage at his home.

**MOTION: To ACCEPT the Director's report as presented:
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

**Abbe Road Soccer Complex/Broad Brook Pond Park /Pierce Memorial Park
(Windsorville)/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point (Osborne Field) Park:**

d. Fishing Derby

Request from the angling club. Normally donate \$250 for event to purchase prizes for event. Great community event – 30 years or longer.

**MOTION: To ACCEPT the donate \$250 to the Broad Brook Angling Club for prizes to be used at their Fishing Derby:
Simpkins moved/Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

e. Bunny Breakfast

Bringing back the Bunny Breakfast on April 9th the Rotary Club who will be cooking breakfast. Local business are placement sponsors. All money goes into the program scholarship fund. Karla Bagdikian is the bunny photographer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT

This email was read into the record and is an addendum to the minutes of the March 14th Parks and Rec Commission meeting.

The Director stated that she contacted Planning and Zoning, and the Public Works director. The Town does not have planting guidelines. Property owners are in their rights to plant what they want on their own property. Should they encroach on town property, the encroachment will be removed.

The plantings in question are on town property and there will be discussion with the property own to have the plantings removed or relocated.

MISCELLANEOUS

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Simpkins

ADJOURMENT

MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:34 pm

Simpkins moved/Bagdikian second/Vote: In favor Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary